

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MUSCAT 00463 260519Z

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 OMB-01 AGRE-00

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 IGA-02 /041 W

-----260526Z 121491 /15

R 240331Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3060

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 0463

AID FOR SER/CFS; MANAMA FOR DODSON; ATHENS FOR RTDO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN BAGB PINT MU

SUBJECT: DISMISSAL OF EXPATRIATE ADVISERS IN DHOFAR

REF: ATHENS 2553 (NOTAL)

1. SEVERAL AMERICAN AND OTHER EXPATRIATE ADVISERS TO THE WALI (GOVERNOR) OF DHOFAR ARE BEING FORCED TO RESIGN IN A WHOLESALE SHAKEUP. AMCIT JAMES HORGAN, AN ECONOMIC ADVISER WHO HAS PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN DEVELOPMENT OF SALALAH AND THE JABAL SINCE MID-1975 LEFT THE COUNTRY MARCH 21, AND ANOTHER AMCIT WORKING FOR HORGAN IN TOWN PLANNING WILL BE LEAVING SOON. SOME OTHER AMERICAN AND BRITISH ADVISERS MAY FOLLOW. INFORMATION IS STILL SCANTY, AND THE EXTENT OF THE PURGE REMAINS UNCLEAR.

2. THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THIS SHAKEUP SEEMS TO BE A DESIRE BY THE OMANGOV TO CENTRALIZE FUNDING AND ADMINISTRATION OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MUSCAT 00463 260519Z

DHOFA PROVINCE. PREVIOUSLY, DHOFA WAS RUN BY THE WALI AS VIRTUALLY A SEPARATE DOMANIN. ITS PROBLEMS IN THE WAKE OF THE DHOFA WAR AND THE STRONG PERSONAL INFLUENCE OF THE WALI, WHAIKH BREIK BIN HAMOUND AL-GHFIRY, GAVE THE REGION SPECIAL STATUS WITHIN THE SULTANATE. THE END OF THE WAR AND THE FITFUL BUT INCREASING INTEGRATION OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMY STIMULATED FORCES FOR CHANGE, WHICH UNFORTUNATELY SOME OF THE WALI'S

ADVISERS SAW FIT TO RESIST. THIS PURGE IS THE FIRST OPEN SIGNAL OF THE CHANGE TAKING PLACE.

3. ALMOST ALL AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS FORMERLY RUN BY THE WALI'S OFFICE, INCLUDING THE HIGHLY-REGARDED GARZAIS BEEF CATTLE PROJECT, HAVE NOW BEEN TRANSFERRED TO THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE. SIMILARLY, THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICAUIONS HAS TAKEN CONTROL OF TOWN PLANNING AND WATER PROJECTS THAT HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN HANDLED BY THE WALI. FUNDING AND AWARDDING OF TENDERS WILL NOW BE ENTIRELY PERFORMED IN MUSCAT, AND THE WALI'S OFFICE WILL HAVE NO AUTHORITY EVEN FOR SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS.

4. BUREAUCRATIC AND PERSONAL JEALOUSIES PLAYED A PART. FOR EXAMPLE, SOME OF HORGEN'S PROPOSALS WERE CRITICIZED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY ON THE GROUNDS THAT THERE WAS DUPLICATION OF PREVIOUS CONSULTING REPORTS, THAT PROGRAMS DID NOT SUFFICIENTLY INVOLVE OMANIS, AND THAT SOME PROJECTS WERE TOO EXPERIMENTAL AND IMPRACTICAL. HORGEN WAS A FORTHRIGHT AND HARD-DRIVING OFFICIAL, A HABIT THAT PUT HIM INTO CONFLICT WITH MINISTRY BUREAUCRATS. ACCORDING TO SEVERAL SOURCES, HE WAS UNNECESSARILY ROUGH ON PEOPLE AT TIMES AND MADE QUITE A FEW ENEMIES.

5. THE PURGE PROBABLY REPRESENTS A MARKED DECLINE IN THE INFLUENCE OF SHAIKH BREIK. HE RECENTLY BEGAN A TWO-MONTH ABSENCE FROM DHOFAR, OSTENSIBLY FOR VACATION AND A MEDICAL CHECKUP. COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER ABDUL HAFIDH RAJAB IS SERVING AS ACTING WALI AND IS THE "HATCHET MAN" FOR THE NEW CHANGEOA. IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT BREIK MAY NO LONGER BE WALI WHEN HE COMES BACK, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MUSCAT 00463 260519Z

ALTHOUGH OPINIONS DIFFER WIDELY ON THIS POINT. ONE THEORY IS THAT BREIK APPROVES THE NEW MOVES, PERSUADED THAT HORGEN IS TOO CONTROVERSIAL A FIGURE, AND THAT HE WILL PICK UP SMOOTHLY AS WALI UPON HIS RETURN. HOWEVER, HIS POWER WILL BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED. WE ARE SURPRISED THAT THIS HAS HAPPENED TO BREIK, CONSIDERING THAT HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN THE 1970 COUP AND HAS BEEN EXCEPTIONALLY CLOSE TO SULTAN QABOOS. RAJAB'S HATCHET WORK CLEARLY COULD NOT HAVE GONE THIS FAR WITHOUT CLEARANCE FROM THE PALACE.

6. ONE INDICATION THAT THE PURGE HAS LIMITS IS THAT CIVIL AID, THE POSTWAR PACIFICATION PROGRAM IN THE JABAL, WILL CONTINUE TO BE RUN FROM THE WALI'S OFFICE. REPORTEDLY, RAJAB INITIALLY ASKED THE BRITISH HEAD OF THIS PROGRAM TO BRING HIS PROCEDURES UNDER CENTRAL GOVERNMENT CONTROL, BUT THE LATTER DEMURRED ON THE GROUNDS THAT CIVIL AID IS A TEMPORARY PROGRAM SCHEDULED TO END IN ABOUT 18 MONTHS. RAJAB ACCEPTED THIS ARGUMENT.

7. COMMENT: SOME JOCKEYING PROBABLY LIES AHEAD IN THIS POLICY

TURN-AROUND. THE END RESULT WILL ONLY EMERGE OVER AN EXTENDED PERIOD. THE ONLY POINT CLEAR SO FAR IS THAT THE DECLINE OF THE WALI'S AUTHORITY AND THE DISMISSAL OF HORGEN WILL PROBABLY NARROW OUR SCOPE FOR REIMBURSABLE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAS STATED DESIRE TO CONTINUE WITH RANGE-LAND AND WATER RESOURCE ADVISERS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED BY HORGEN, AND AS OUR AIRGRAM A-11 OF MARCH 30 ON OMANI AGRICULTURE POINTS OUT, CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION MAY PROMOTE INCREASED EFFICIENCY AND LOWER COSTS. IN CONTRAST, THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS MAY NOT BE AS WILLING TO OBTAIN AMERICAN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IN TOWN PLANNING AND WATER RESOURCES. THE U.S. FIRM OF MCGAUGHRY, MARSHALL AND MCMILLAN, WHICH SIGNED A TOWN PLANNING CONTRACT WITH THE WALI, SEEMS DESTINED FOR A RENEGOTIATIONS DISPUTE WITH THE COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY. THE PRINCETON ENERGY GROUP'S PROPOSALS FOR SOLAR AND WINDMILL ELECTRIC GENERATORS PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED BY THE WALI MAY SIMILARLY FALL THROUGH. THE SPECIAL U.S. EDUCATION PROGRAMS FOR PROMING
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 MUSCAT 00463 260519Z

DHOFARIS MAY ALSO BE CANCELLED.
WOLLE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL SEPARATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 24-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MUSCAT00463
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770104-0114
Format: TEL
From: MUSCAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770326/aaaaawrn.tel
Line Count: 141
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 649af0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ATHENS 2553
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3009621
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DISMISSAL OF EXPATRIATE ADVISERS IN DHOFAR
TAGS: BGEN, BAGB, PINT, MU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/649af0b2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009